

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02715 281143Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 OES-03 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7655

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 2370

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

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DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, WFTU, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET TRADE UNION LEADER (AVER'YANOV, BORIS)

ON EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02715 281143Z

REF: A. HELSINKI 275

B. GENEVA 887

1. BORIS AVER'YANOV, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF SOVIET ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS, DISCUSSED IMPENDING EAST-WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE, FUTURE OF EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, AND HIS OWN FUTURE, INTER ALIA, DURING CALL BY EMBOFF FEBURARY 26.

2. GENEVA CONFERENCE, AVER'YANOV SAID, HAS BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED AND SHOULD PROCEED IN CALM, PRACTICAL ATMOSPHERE WITH EMPHASIS ON COOPERATION IN IMPROVING WORKERS' ENVIRONMENT. SINCE PAPERS HAD BEEN PREPARED IN ADVANCE AND DISTRIBUTED, CONFERENCE COULD SPEND TIME IN DISCUSSING RATHER THAN LISTENING TO READING OF VARIOUS PRESENTATIONS. SHELEPIN WOULD BE MAKING 6-PAGE SPEECH, HE NOTED SOMEWHAT INCONGRUOUSLY. SOVIETS HAD NO DESIRE, AVER'YANOV CLAIMED, TO INJECT POLITICAL ISSUES ("IMPERIALISM", VIET NAM, ETC) INTO DISCUSSION, AND HE HAD PERSONALLY TURNED DOWN SUGGESTIONS TO DO SO FROM (UNNAMED) COLLEAGUES. AT FEBRUARY 25 PRELIMINARY MEETING IN GENEVA, HE REPORTED, DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO OPEN CONFERENCE TO PRESS.

3. WHEN ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER SOVIETS EXPECTED SECRETARIAT OR SOME SORT OF PERMANENT EAST-WEST MECHANISM TO EMERGE FROM CONFERENCE, AVER'YANOV REPLIED "ABSOLUTELY NOT," IMPLYING THAT SOVIETS DID NOT RPT NOT EVEN CONSIDER SUCH A DEVELOPMENT DESIRABLE. "WE ARE PLAYING A VERY COOL HAND," AVER'YANOV EMPHASIZED. ON OHTER HAND, HE STATED THAT A PAN-EUROPEAN TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING AUCCTU, WAS AN INEVITABLE DEVELOPMENT, NOT WITHIN NEXT FEW YEARS, "NOT PERHAPS BEFORE MY GOOD FRIEND GEORGE MEANY DIES," BUT NEVERTHELESS IN FORESSEABLE FUTURE. AVER'YANOV REPEATEDLY ALLUDED TOINEVITABILITY OF TREND TOWARD EAST-WEST COOPERATION AND SAID, MORE SORROWFULLY THAN ANGRILY, THAT AFL-CIO WAS SIMPLY ISOLATING ITSELF BY OPPOSING THIS TREND.

4. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RUMOR THAT HE WOULD MOVE TO PRAGUE AS NEW HEAD OF WFTU, AVER'YANOV RETORTED THAT IF THIS REPORT HAD REACHED EVEN AMERICAN EMBASSY, IT MUST BE TRUE. HOWEVER, HE SAID, HE WOULD BE ONE OF FIVE WFTU SECRETARIES AND NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02715 281143Z

EITHER PRESIDENT OR GENERAL SECRETARY. HE PLANNED TO LEAVE FOR PRAGUE PROBABLY AROUND END OF MARCH, BUT MADE CLEAR HE FACED MOVE WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM. AVER'YANOV HAD NO WORD AS TO WHO HIS AUCCTU SUCCESSOR MIGHT BE. SINCE MEETING WAS GENERALLY CORDIAL DESPITE OCCASIONAL DIGS AT U.S. VISA POLICY AND REFUSAL TO LET HIM VISIT WASHINGTON ON LAST NEW YORK TRIP, SURVEILLANCE DURING THAT TRIP, CIA FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ITALIAN TRADE UNIONS, ETC. NINETY-

MINUTE SESSION WAS TWICE INTERRUPTED BY HOT-LINE CALLS FROM SHELEPIN TO DISCUSS 43,000-RUBLE COST OF SENDING UKRAINIAN AMATEUR PERFORMERS TO PORTUGAL.

6. COMMENT: AVER'YANOV WAS, AS WE HAVE FOUND HIM BEFORE, VOLUBLE, AFFABLE, FULL OF ANECDOTES AND AT SAME TIME SHREWD TACTICIAN WELL AWARE OF WESTERN SENSITIVITIES AND ANXIOUS TO SACRIFICE SHORT-TERM SCORING OF POINTS FOR LONG-TERM GAIN. HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH SHELEPIN PROVIDE INTERESTING GLIMPSE OF RELATIVELY PETTY MATTERS THAT POLITBURO MEMBER AND FORMER RISING STAR NOW IS OCCUPIED WITH. FURTHER DETAILS FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
STOESSEL

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